



Cumberland Elementary School
Sunnyvale, California

February 15, 2006

Do you feel safe? Safety is a subject that comes and goes in our consciousness. Every so often, an event may take place that brings it back to our awareness. Since safety, as a topic of conversation, has crossed my path more than once this month, I thought it would be appropriate to write about.

Safety is defined as a condition of being safe; freedom from danger, risk, or injury. Safety is determined both by where we are and how we choose to react in that environment. I take great comfort in the fact that we live in the fifth safest city in America according to the twelfth annual Morgan Quitno Safest Cities in America awards (announced 11.21.05). And, I consider our school to be one of the safest in our city.

Although schools are generally safer than many other places children encounter in society, our community cannot become complacent about safety in that setting. The National PTA has posted an article on its website entitled "Safe and Secure Schools: the Parent Factor". It can be found at www.pta.org under parent resources: Our Children magazine.

The article points out that safety is a coordinated effort between school officials and parents. Safety is an ongoing process within a school's culture. And, I can assure you that our school has taken safety to heart. Policies and procedures have been put in place and are practiced. We see evidence of it when our child reports a fire or earthquake drill. We may not be aware of the many other aspects of safety that are also covered.

For example, did you know Cumberland has a disaster preparedness plan? Do you know why we need to sign in at the office before proceeding to a classroom? I didn't know until recently. Cumberland does have a disaster preparedness plan, and has asked for our help to update outdated emergency supplies. And, we sign into the office so our presence is known, especially in the event of a real emergency, and to track volunteer hours for corporate donations. Please set a good example by signing in and wearing a visitor or volunteer button.

Safety is also a factor before and after school. Traffic patterns and parking designations have been established to protect our children as they enter school grounds. As parents, we must remember that children don't always make the obvious safe choices while in a street. Please drive slowly and watch for pedestrians and cyclists. Please follow traffic patterns if riding your bike or dropping your student off (W on Elmira, N on Piper, E on Cumberland to reach the front of the school) and use crosswalks to cross a street. Our crossing guards are there to keep everyone safe. As a reminder, white curbs in front of the school and along Quetta are for dropping off or picking up ONLY. You may not leave your car unattended in these areas.

I hope you were able to attend Officer Scott Mueeting's talk at yesterday's PTA meeting to learn ideas on how to talk to your child about being safe. Some points we can remind our child of:

- Talk to your child about the importance of reporting threats or safety concerns. If safety is at risk, it's not "snitching" to tell a grown up.
- Help your children identify adults at school they would be comfortable talking to if they had a concern.
- Discuss the importance of avoiding being drawn into rumors and inter-person conflicts, which could put personal safety at risk.
- Don't hesitate to bring school safety concerns to Mrs. Ahuja's attention.

All the things that make Cumberland such a great school are the same things that make it such a safe community. Let's all do our part to keep the children at Cumberland safe. They are our precious future.

With warm regards,

Jeanette Krogstad
Cumberland PTA President, 2005-06

Code Red Drill At Cumberland

There will be a Code Red Drill (lockdown) at Cumberland on Wednesday, March 1 at 1:30 pm. This a part of Cumberland's commitment for disaster preparedness. Officer Scott will be in attendance.

Parent volunteers and visitors on campus during any of the disaster preparedness drills, should follow instructions given to them by the Cumberland staff. They should be as prepared as the students in the event of a real disaster.



Short Term Help Needed:

Cumberland's Disaster Preparedness committee needs 1 or 2 parents to help inventory existing supplies, replace expiring supplies and determine appropriate quantities of supplies for our increased enrollment. Please contact Deb Mangan at 522-8255 or email at dmangan@sesd.org.

PTA Bylaws Have Been Updated

The Cumberland PTA is now in the process of updating its bylaws, as is periodically required by the State PTA. These revised bylaws will need to be approved by the PTA at our April or May meeting (depending upon when we receive approval from the State PTA for the changes we have proposed). If you would like to review the proposed changes to our bylaws, a copy has been left in the School office (on the table where visitors sign in) for anyone to look at. If you have any questions or comments about the bylaws, please contact PTA Parliamentarian, Laura Healy, at laurahealy@sbcglobal.net

Dates To Remember:

- Feb 17 Crazy Hair Day
- Feb 17 Family Movie Night, 7 pm in the Multi;
Wallace & Gromit in *The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*
- Feb 20 - 24 Winter Break, No School
- Feb 28 Leadership Council Meeting 5:30 pm

- Mar 1 Code Red Drill 1:30 pm
- Mar 8 Student of the Month 8:30 am
- Mar 10 Staff Development Day - No School
- Mar 13 Budget Committee Meeting 2:45 pm
- Mar 14 Teacher Learning Day, Early dismissal at 12:45 am
- Mar 15 Family Life, LRC & Multi, 6:30-8:30 pm
- Mar 16 4th Grade Performance 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm
- Mar 17 Pajama Day
- Mar 17 Astronomy Night/Ice Cream Social 7 pm
- Mar 21 PTA Meeting 8:30 am
- Mar 23 K -3 Science Fair 6:30 pm
- Mar 28 Leadership Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- Mar 29 Klutz Book Making, TBD
- Mar 31 SELAC Meeting 8:30 am

Kudos Corner

Special thanks to the First Grade Team and all the parents who helped coordinate the First Grade Performance.

Xie_xie to **Sandy Chen**, Larry and Tiffany's mom, for sponsoring the Shaolin Kung Fu performance at Chinese New Year. Do jeh to Mrs. **Karmirantz** and **Eunice Chen** for coordinating the Chinese New Year parade.

Gracias to **Susan Stevenson** for keeping our Cumberland sign updated weekly!

Playgroup For Incoming 2006 Kindergarteners

An email list has been started to organize play dates for incoming kindergarteners to meet and get to know each other. If you, or someone you know, has a child entering kindergarten at Cumberland in the fall, please sign up by sending an email to Cumberland2006kinders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

PTA Budget Forum

How should we use our unbudgeted PTA funds to best support the goals of Cumberland School and its students?

That is the question that we discussed at the budget brainstorming session on January 26. After setting some ground rules for the discussion, we brainstormed by writing ideas on post it notes and then grouping similar items together. It was a really great discussion and we came up with a long list of ideas!

I want to share some of those ideas with you here, and also welcome those of you who couldn't come to the meeting to send back the form at the bottom of this page and share **YOUR** thoughts and ideas for improving the school!

1. There were several suggestions for After School Enrichment Programs, including foreign language, art, choir, chess, etc. This could be through outside organizations such as "Starting Arts" or "Community School of Music and Art", or possibly through bringing back a more extensive Kid-Zone. This could be parent-sponsored with minimal PTA-funding.

2. We discussed Technology, including upgrading the computers in the lab and library, and purchasing a laptop cart for computer project use in the classroom, technology training for teachers as well as other technology items such as a CD burner and scanner.

3. We talked about a new Sound System for the Multi-Purpose room, possibly including a portable speaker system that could be used on the blacktop as well as in the multi.

4. A variety of Outside Equipment was discussed, such as covered picnic tables on the playground, a storage shed to keep the hallway clear, another mural and more plants to brighten up the courtyard.

5. The Art discussion brought up lots of creative ideas, ranging from more art supplies for the classrooms (e.g. scissors, drawing

clipboards and paints) to Art assemblies and/or field trips, to weekly hands-on art lessons for each grade.

6. Science suggestions included more science training for the teachers, or possibly a science coordinator to assist/teach in classrooms regularly. We also discussed the status of the FOSS Kits, what's coming up with new textbooks, etc.

7. There were several suggestions to expand the Library collection, and provide more hours for the library, if needed.

8. We talked about classroom supplies, such as better quality boom boxes for the classrooms and reviewing the condition of the "Book Bag" take-home books, as many are damaged or missing.

9. We talked about Field Trips – perhaps each teacher should have a line item for field trips? Maybe we could fund one field trip per class per year on a bus?

10. Other ideas included Earthquake Preparedness and starting a Cumberland Foundation.

Phew. As you can see, there is no way we can do it all! What would you like to see? Are your favorite ideas here? If not, what are they? Fill out the form below if you'd like to share your ideas with the budget committee!

NOTE: None_of these have been decided yet. These are just brainstormed ideas that need a lot of work before they become practical uses for the money. All ideas are welcome. No promises can be made as to whether they can be implemented.

Thanks!

Ruth Helfinstein
PTA Budget Committee Chair
School@helfinstein.com , (408)737-2936



Name (optional) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

What would YOU do with the unbudgeted PTA funds?

Access Britannica Now!

Cumberland has just purchased the Encyclopedia Britannica Online School Edition, which is renewable each year.

Not only can your child use the website from school, BUT your family may also log into the website from home. Everyone in your family is invited to use the website. It is GREAT for research and projects.

Britannica Online School Edition provides easy access to a world of knowledge!

- Quick information for homework and special projects
- Action-packed videos and colorful images
- Quick-click Dictionary and Thesaurus
- Automatic Citations
- Current Magazines plus the Web's Best Sites

You can access directly at www.school.eb.com

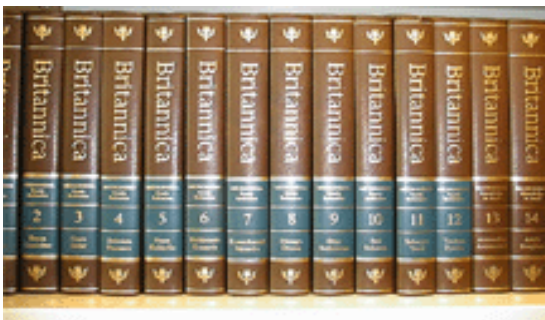
OR through Cumberland's website at

www.sesd.org/schools/cumberland/index.htm

and click on RESOURCES and scroll down to Education Resources to find the link for Britannica.

Username: **cougars** Password: **cougars**

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Atkins, the school librarian!



Parking Reminder

Please do not park your vehicle illegally when picking up or dropping off your child(ren) for school. This includes leaving vehicles unattended in white zones, blocking driveways, parking in red zones, bus zones or disabled parking spaces without a valid placard/license plate. Your vehicle can be cited and/or towed.

Also, slow down and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

California Motor Vehicle Code:

21950. (a) The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. (b) The provisions of this section shall not relieve a pedestrian from the duty of using due care for his or her safety. No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. No pedestrian shall unnecessarily stop or delay traffic while in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. (c) The provisions of subdivision (b) shall not relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising due care for the safety of any pedestrian within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

Parent Education

Check the display case in the breezeway for a sampling of local parent educational opportunities. Case will be updated monthly.

Lisa Massey, Parent Ed Coordinator

Contributions to the next PTA Newsletter are due no later than Wednesday, March 8th. Information can be sent to Eunice Chen, PTA Newsletter Editor at hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com.